

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: info@georgiabattlefields.org

Busy weekend in Savannah: 4-6 March

Georgia Battlefields representatives had a busy weekend in Savannah in early March. On 4 March, GBA president Charlie Crawford received the Civil War Trust Chairman's Award for sustained preservation efforts. Later on 4 March, he participated in the dedication ceremony for a new historical marker addressing Special Field Orders No. 15, issued by Major General Sherman in January 1865 after a meeting with African-American ministers. The ceremony was covered by local media and by the Associated Press, whose article ran in newspapers in Chicago, Richmond, Charlotte, Miami, and Chattanooga as well as Georgia. We also had a chance to scout venues for the next GBA tour led by Ed Bearss, which is tentatively scheduled for 9-12 March 2012 in Savannah. Note: These dates will run from Friday evening through noon Monday, rather than the usual Thursday evening through noon Sunday.



Left: Civil War Trust Chairman John Nau presents award to GBA President Charlie Crawford. Right: Unveiling of new historical marker. Charlie Crawford at lectern with (left to right) Georgia Historical Society (GHS) Curator Vince Dooley, keynote speaker Dr. Charles Elmore, GHS President Todd Groce, and Savannah Mayor Pro Tem Edna Jackson. GBA helped fund the marker and compose the text. See www.georgiahistory.com for more about the marker program. Left photo courtesy of Bruce Guthrie. Right photo by Cindy Wentworth.

Report on GBA tour with Ed Bearss: 10-13 March

We had another great tour led by National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss. We were based in Augusta and had great weather. On Friday, we toured the A.H. Stephens house in Crawfordville, the Revolutionary War battlefield at Kettle Creek, the town of Washington, and the site of the theft of the Richmond bank funds in May 1865. Saturday included a walking tour of downtown Augusta, followed by a tour of the Walker Family Cemetery and Augusta State University, site of the former U.S. and Confederate arsenals. Sunday involved a stop at the Confederate powder works chimney and a visit to the Augusta Canal Museum, followed by a canal boat tour. We had great local guides at each stop plus Ed's inimitable commentary.



Left: U.S. Army Signal Corps historian Steve Rauch explains the Battle of Kettle Creek on Friday. Right: The group hears from Steve Rauch again on Saturday morning at the site of Fort Augusta.

GBA Vice President Cindy Wentworth and Vince Dooley look over the dessert menu at Saturday's lunch while Ed Bearss prepares to give his opinion.



Rebecca Rogers of Augusta Canal National Heritage Area provides information about new interpretive programs during the canal boat tour. We had a great Sunday morning on the canal: history, nature, and sunshine.



GBA again leads downtown Atlanta tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center's annual Phoenix Flies program featured a tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites led by GBA on 19 March.

The March 2008 GBA walking tour of downtown Atlanta was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is available. The intro of the DVD is on the web at www.three23.org/work-at-three23/civil-war-walking-tour/. The DVD is normally available at the museum store of the Atlanta History Center, or you can order a DVD by sending a \$15 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

150 years ago this month

April 8: Governor Brown directs Georgia forces to seize the U.S. Mint buildings at Dahlonega.

12: Acting on orders from the new Confederate government, General Beauregard begins shelling Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The fort surrenders the next day. War has begun.

15: President Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers to deal with the insurrection.

17: Though previous votes had rejected secession, the events at Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for volunteers influence a Virginia convention to approve secession subject to a popular vote scheduled for 23 May.

18: Governor Brown reacts to Lincoln's call for volunteers by asking all Georgia men (no need to specify white men) to volunteer for military service.

19: President Lincoln directs the U.S. Navy to blockade ports in seceded states.

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